

DARENTH PARK



ANNUAL REPORT
1949



Presented to the

DARENTH & STONE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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DARENTH and STONE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Vacancy (Junior Registrar)

Matron : Mrs. C.G. Barnes, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.N.(M.D.), R.M.P.A.

Chief Male Nurse : W.A.Lane, Esq., R.N.(M.D.), R.M.P.A.

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DARENTH and STONE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

D A R E N T H P A R K.

A N N U A L R E P O R T 1949.

PART I - STATISTICS.

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	The average number of patients resident	1,019	686	1,705
2.	New admissions under the M.D. Acts.			
	Sec.6.	60	38	98
	" 7.	7	2	9
	" 8.	29	2	31
	" 9.	5	1	6
	" 15.	4	-	4
	Licence	2	2	4
		<u>107</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>158</u>
3.	Cases under Sec.16 Lunacy Act.	15	53	68
4.	Patients discharged to -			
	Friends or relatives	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	Other M.D. Hospitals	10	7	17
	On licence to M.D.Hosps.	1	1	2
	Certified under Lunacy Acts & transferred to other hospitals	4	1	5
	By Order of the Board of Control.	10	7	17
	By Order of Visitors	3	-	3
	" Operation of Law	12	4	16
	Section 15	1	-	1
		<u>42</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>62</u>
5.	Leave granted -			
	Patients' Outings	1,628	570	2,198
	-Day trips -			
	Periods up to 48 hrs.	363	102	465
	" " " 3 mths.	569	289	858
	" " " 6 mths.	21	26	47
		<u>2,581</u>	<u>987</u>	<u>3,568</u>
6.	Transferred on licence to other hospitals	3	3	6
7.	Already on licence	76	35	110
8.	Licences extended -			
	for those issued during 1949	17	15	32
	" " " prior	81	42	123
9.	Licences revoked during 1949	11	16	27
10.	Absconded from the Hospital	76	7	83
	" whilst on leave	22	5	27
11.	Returned from absconding.	86	13	99

PART II.MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL REPORT.

The percentage of distribution of admissions certified under Sections of the Mental Deficiency Acts of 1913-27-38 was :-

	Male.	Female.
Under Section 6	55%	74%
" " 7	6%	4%
" " 8	27%	4%
" " 9	5%	14%
" " 15	4%	-
On Licence	2%	4%

The percentage of age groups of the 107 male admissions was :-

<u>Under 16 yrs.</u>	<u>16-20 yrs.</u>	<u>21-30 yrs.</u>	<u>31-40 yrs.</u>	<u>41-60 yrs.</u>
9%	38%	19%	18%	16%

and of these, 85% were feeble-minded and 15% imbecile.

The percentage of age groups of the 51 female admissions was :-

<u>Under 16 yrs.</u>	<u>16-20 yrs.</u>	<u>21-30 yrs.</u>	<u>31-40 yrs.</u>	<u>41-60 yrs.</u>
2%	33%	41%	16%	8%

and of these 51 admissions, 84% were feeble-minded and 16% were imbecile.

22 of the male admissions under Sections 8-9 of the M.D. Acts had a history of larceny and 9 of assault, either criminal or indecent.

Features of note with regard to admissions were :-

1. that the highest percentage of males was in the 16-20 year old group.
2. that 74% of female admissions were in the 16-30 year old group.
3. 32% of male admissions were so admitted under Sections 8 and 9 of the Act.

This means that among the admissions were a significant number of feeble-minded young offenders and delinquents in whom the reasons for certification were rather more social than intellectual.

The general health of the patients was good and another year passed without any serious epidemic. The absence of any proven cases of dysentery is a matter for congratulation. In those treated for common everyday ailments, mild septic conditions of skin, minor injuries and respiratory infections formed the bulk of the cases.

The figures for everyday illness, serious illness, tuberculosis and deaths during the year clearly show that males were much more susceptible to respiratory trouble than females.

3.

The females were consistently less vulnerable to all types of illness and tended to succumb to senile cardio-vascular degeneration at a late age.

The problem of tuberculosis was grappled with successfully during the year. Mass Radiographic examinations of all patients and staff, so far as possible, were undertaken. This led to the discovery or re-investigation of 33 male cases in addition to those known cases in the tuberculosis ward. In order to deal with these Ward 7c was opened and these fresh cases grouped there for further investigation and treatment. The more resistant females proved less of a problem but although only one previously unknown active case was found, steps were taken to group all female cases with past histories of tuberculosis in one ward, namely Ward 33.

One active case of tuberculosis was found amongst the female nursing staff, a Latvian Student Nurse, who has made a good recovery; and one active case amongst the male nursing staff, again a Latvian Student Nurse, who has had to be transferred to a Sanatorium.

In addition to the mass radiography investigation, 706 radiological examinations were made at The Southern Hospital. 408 of these were on male patients and staff and 298 on female patients and staff.

262 general medical and surgical cases were treated in the Hospital Block, in addition to those cases of a less acute or severe nature who were treated in the infirmary wards on male and female sides.

The male casualty rate was 242 of which only six were serious.

156 female casualties were reported of which only four were serious.

The Hospital Block continues to be the centre around which the medical work of the hospital revolves. The value of having a fully equipped medical, surgical, dental and pathological unit for both sexes, staffed mainly by female nurses cannot be over-estimated. The centralisation of these services is by no means the only asset, although this is very great. The Block can be used for the training of nurses on the lines of a general hospital, it adds greatly to the interest of the medical officers' work as all the medical staff attend cases from their own wards there, and are easily able to consult one another. Such a self contained unit housing male and female staff and male and female patients enables a splendid esprit de corps to be built up which would be more difficult to secure in blocks of larger wards.

During the year 262 bed cases were admitted. These were made up of an interesting and varied selection of illnesses such as one would meet in a general hospital. In addition close on 500 out-patients of all kinds were dealt with involving routine skin, E.N.T. and Eye examinations and treatments, varicose vein injections, fractures, minor operations of many kinds, artificial pneumothorax inductions, sigmoidoscopies, etc.

The visiting E.N.T. Surgeon carried out 16 operations including the removal of an open safety pin from the oesophagus.

Visiting Surgeons performed 11 major operations including abdominal emergencies and one leucotomy.

The Orthopaedic Surgeon saw 35 cases but only performed one operation. Apart from minor adjustments mainly of feet deformed by unsuitable footwear prior to admission, most of the major orthopaedic surgery has been cleared up.

The Gynaecologists saw 16 cases and two operations were called for. The physiotherapy department of Joyce Green Hospital was most co-operative in providing short wave treatment for several gynaecological cases.

97 eye cases were seen by the Ophthalmologist and suitable glasses provided where necessary. The waiting list here was completely cleared by regular visits from Dr. Rostron who has now resigned. It is hoped that he will be quickly replaced.

Finally, 23 skin cases were seen by the visiting dermatologist and in addition several were seen at Joyce Green Hospital.

The death rate was 1.1%. This is 0.1% less than the previous year.

Total deaths	19
Males	11
Females	8

Causes of death.

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis	5	Cardio-vascular disease	5
Respiratory		Tuberculosis	1
(Non-T.B.)	3	Cancer	1
Nervous disease	1	Urinary disease	1
Cancer	1		
Post-operative			
(Neurological)	1		

Eleven post-mortem examinations were made by medical officers of this hospital or H.M. Coroner's Pathologist. No inquests were held.

DENTISTRY

Mr. A.A. Thomas, L.D.S., R.C.S., attended at this hospital twice weekly during 1949. 801 patients attended for treatment, 584 of whom attended for the first time. 1997 teeth were extracted; 251 local anaesthetics and 132 general anaesthetics were given. Conservative treatment was carried out when possible, but only 17 fillings were completed. 52 patients were fitted with full dentures and 12 with partial dentures. 27 dentures were repaired. Operations for the removal of 17 impacted wisdom teeth were performed. A case of ~~osteitis~~ ^{osteitis} deformans was discovered, X-rayed and commented on. A special denture was fitted to a cleft palate case; this was of such an unusual nature as to be worthy of photographic record being made and sent to the B.D.A. 7 gingivectomies were performed, and a fractured mandible was reset and treated under general anaesthetic.

During 1949 Mr. Thomas visited all the wards and examined all available patients with a view to future treatment. Many special cases were referred to the dental surgeon by the medical officers.

Mr. Thomas has again spoken of the necessity for a dental hygienist to perform scaling and teach dental hygiene under his supervision.

In his report the dental surgeon stated "I again wish to thank the medical and nursing staff for their continued co-operation."

PHARMACY.

The pharmacy was under the care of Mrs. Manning, who was so kind as to continue her temporary post as pharmacist until the 19th October, 1949, although her physical health was hardly equal to the work and travelling involved.

Miss Rosemary Chalke commenced as Pharmacist on 21st November, 1949, Mr. Reed having covered the intervening period. Miss Chalke has shown herself efficient and is held in high regard.

PHOTOGRAPHY.

As no photography of patients had been possible since September, 1948, this important matter was considerably in arrear, but through the kindness of Dr. McCartney, two members of his staff have made great progress in catching up. Their visits, either singly or together, have been made weekly or fortnightly as they could be spared for the work. The quality of their work has elicited highly complimentary remarks from police and C.I.D. Officers.

LABORATORY REPORT.

Mr. D. Redford, B.Sc., A.M.I.M.E., continues to be in charge of the Laboratory and shows outstanding interest in his work. In addition to his ordinary work he has spent many hours voluntarily training medical students who have been here as nursing assistants for varying periods. He has also carried out pathological examinations for Stone House during the annual leave and sickness of the laboratory technician there.

Routine work has been as follows :-

Haematology.

Full blood counts including differential counts	364
White cell counts and differential counts	140
Estimation of sedimentation rate	388
Blood typing	59
" fragility tests	6
" coagulation times	28
Estimation of blood reticulocytes	18
" " " platelets	10
Miscellaneous	40

Bacteriology.

Faeces for Typhoid & dysentery Group	524
Urine " " " "	162
Faeces for T.B.	6
Urine " "	86
Sputum " "	523
Throat swabs for organisms	54
Cervical swabs "	48
Eye " "	16
Blood cultures	34
Pus for organisms	20
Urine for "	128
Typing for "	82
Agglutination tests	78
Miscellaneous	30
	<u>2,835</u>

Total for 1949 - 7,268.

PATHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS 1949.Biochemical tests.

Estimation of blood sugar	82
urea	34
creatinine	6
sulphonamides	48
total proteins	30
chlorides	20
calcium	8
cholesterol	20
acetone	4
uric acid	3
potassium	10
phosphates	10
bromides	2
Estimation of urine sugar	108
sulphonamides	80
proteins	894
urea	34
chlorides	34
creatinine	6
diacetic acid	82
Routine urines	2,800
Chemical examination of milk	8
water supply	8
Examination of gastric contents	28
faecal fats	12
Miscellaneous	62
	<u>4,433</u>

WORKSHOPS.

Difficulties in the workshops have been manifest particularly in regard to obtaining materials, as was foreshadowed in my annual report for 1948. During that year the turnover in the industrial department had a total value of some £112,000, but for the year 1949 the turnover had fallen to £45,000. During the first part of the year the necessary permits for the female workshops were unobtainable from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Supply. The abolition of clothes rationing reduced the difficulties and towards the end of the year materials were obtained fairly easily except utility sheeting, etc., of which there was a general scarcity.

Hospital Management Committees were therefore unable to place their orders here, as these could not be met, and had to go to outside contractors who have continued to obtain their orders. This is understandable, first, because the articles required can be obtained at approximately the same price from contractors as from Darenth Park, (contractors are also in a position to offer as an inducement goods which are in short supply), and secondly the quality of articles from contractors is in many instances better than that of similar articles made by our patients.

Although a reasonable number of orders remains, they are mostly for uniforms, aprons, etc., which Hospital Management Committees find difficulty in obtaining from contractors, and there is a much greater demand for machine work than for hand work. The plain flat handwork which was suitable for the lower grade defectives has largely disappeared.

The number of patients suitable for machine work in the needlerooms is limited and as these are the higher grade patients they are the ones who qualify for licence, daily or residential.

Difficulties in obtaining materials for the male workshops are not comparable to those for the female workshops. Reduction in output is due to two factors:

- (a) the type of patient which has now to be admitted is largely unsuitable for the workshops, and
- (b) the large expansion in the numbers of male patients now on licence, daily or residential, many of whom come from the workshops in which they were trained and useful.

However, most male shops are working to capacity except the basket-making shop for which there is still no instructor and the toy-making shop which cannot be opened owing to shortage of materials. Although the output from the shops both in numbers and value has decreased during the year under review, the variety of the work undertaken has remained constant throughout.

Articles made in Needlerooms for period 1.1.49 - 31.12.49.

Aprons	2,976	B/F	28,890
Bags, Laundry	171	Petticoats	926
" Brush & comb	109	Pillow cases	7,612
" Tea & coffee	108	Pinafores	3,634
Blankets, Bed	600	Restrainers	124
" Baby	300	Rugs	172
" Cot	200	Slip mats	29
" carriage	191	Scourers	6,542
Bed jackets	274	Sheets, Bed	13,994
Caps	476	" Draw	1,002
Chemises	452	" Bath	750
Combinations	135	" Ironing & dust	4
Covers, Toilet	396	Night rugs	172
" Various	313	Towels, Bath	1,644
" Mattress	361	" Huckaback	13,951
" Table	26	" Tea	2,224
" Cushion	81	" Round	1,490
Cloths, Carving	24	" Special	191
" Diet	3,998	Various articles	2,298
" Dressing	1,456	Toys	<u>1,511</u>
" Special	144		<u>87,160</u>
" Glass	934	Average weekly output =	1,676
" Hearth	72		
" Oven	180		
" Mangling	24		
" Pudding	2,910		
" Tea	1,008		
" Misc.	1,868		
" Sideboard	72		
" Table	973		
" Tray	90		
Curtains	477		
Drawers	629		
Dresses, Uniforms	474		
" Patients	158		
Dressing gowns	205		
Flannels, face	464		
Feeders, feeding cloths	732		
Night gowns	1,941		
" shirts	1,979		
Pyjamas	169		
Neckerchiefs	<u>740</u>		
C/F	28,890		

Male Workshops Production 1.1.49 - 31.12.49.Bookbinders & Printers

	<u>No. New.</u>	<u>No. Repairs</u>
Envelopes	102,000	
Latrine paper (Pkt.)	7,025	
Labels	20,000	
Cards	4,850	
Cases & Folders	14,500	
Bags	61,200	
Memo. & Letter Heads (Rms.)	953	
Writing Paper (Pkts.) (Rms.)	464	
Books, Various	4,988	226
Pads, Various	4,626	
Printed forms	770,438	

Matmaker.

Mats	400	133
Rugs		58
Mops	85	1
Coal Sacks		54

Tinsmith

Tins, Various	256	
Kettles	121	
Coal Scuttles	48	
Various Articles	249	1,760

Painters

Painting for Builder, wards, corridors etc. by patients.	
Various articles painted.	955

Small Animal Breeding.

Cavies	2,825)	Account closed
Rabbits	246)	11.4.49.

Bricklayers.

Work for Builder: various jobs by
patients.

Basketmaker.

Baskets, Various	21	180
Chairs		71

Tailor

Coats	65	
Shirts	301	
Mattresses	24	
Bags, Various	338	
Rugs, etc.	42	
Garments repaired		7,808
Sundry repairs		637
Strong Suits	40	
Other Garments	50	

<u>Shoemakers.</u>	<u>No. New</u>	<u>No. Repairs.</u>
Surgical boots, etc. (prs.).	10	
Boots and shoes repaired (prs.).		9,491
Various articles repaired		232
<u>Firewood.</u>		
Bundles	82,860	
Logs (bags)	66	
<u>Special Training.</u>		
Coal briquettes	52,600	
Kerb stones	1,350	
Various repairs		352
<u>Occupational Therapy</u>		
Scourers	128	
Stools	61	
Baskets, etc.	19	
Cushions	27	
Lampshades	9	
Firescreens	16	
<u>Mattressmaker.</u>		
Mattresses	59	497
Pillows	24	684
Various articles	72	44
<u>Brushmaker</u>		
Brooms, Soft	1,242	
" Bass	634	
Brushes, Banister	461	
" W.C.	214	
" Scrubbing	1,791	
" Shoe	230	
" Nail	386	
" Hair	337	
" Tooth	2,486	
" Shaving	126	
" Saucepan	122	
" Bath	90	
" Floor Polisher	230	
" Dandy	48	
" Clothes	40	
Wall brooms	120	
Brooms, etc. repaired		81
<u>Carpenter.</u>		
Machining for Builder		
Coffins	19	
Various articles	304	4,046
<u>Upholsterer.</u>		
Cushions & Hassocks	6	198
Various articles	68	123
Couches & Settees		33
Chairs, various, repaired		73

1949 - GARDENS REPORT.

Mr. R. G. Pink, Senior Horticultural Instructor, who is in charge of the horticulture here, has supplied me with the following report: -

"In spite of a very difficult horticultural year, quite good progress was made in the Horticultural Department.

Maintenance. A high standard of tidiness was maintained and several minor improvements were effected in the general lay-out.

Recreation Grounds - Cricket. The cricket table was somewhat improved though much more remains to be done to bring it to perfection. 45 matches were played on this table, 24 by staff and 21 by patients. The small field was used for 18 patients' cricket matches and was utilised as a training field for the staff athletic team.

Football. The football field was definitely suffering from over-use, but was maintained in as good a condition as possible under the circumstances. It was in constant use, being used for two, sometimes three matches weekly.

Tennis Courts. By such means as were at our command, the tennis courts were somewhat improved. Lack of sufficient force of water was a serious drawback. The courts were and still are in need of re-surfacing and of new boundary nets. The improvement of the banking to the tennis courts was carried out by the construction of a terrace wall and border, backing on a lawn provided for the comfort of spectators. The border was partly furnished with ornamental trees and shrubs, more of which will be added as they are produced in the nursery gardens.

Female patients' recreation field. The field facing the boiler house was cultivated and laid down ready for sowing with grass seed in March or April, for use as a recreation field for female patients.

Airing Courts. Work was started on the improvement of the ward airing courts, the greatest obstacle to progress here being shortage of labour.

Trees. Much drastic, long overdue, pruning was carried out among the trees, eradicating diseased, dead and dangerous branches, and preventing the spread of disease among the trees. Six trees had to be entirely destroyed, being so diseased as to be dangerous. Wherever possible fresh plantings were made with such ornamental subjects as Catalpa; Gingko; Koelreuteria; Liriodendron; Prunus; Sophora; Davidia, etc. These replacements should materially enhance the beauty of the gardens in the future.

Orchards. Here again a drastic, rigorous pruning was practiced in order to get the trees into as productive a state as possible. Much diseased and useless old wood was eliminated. The trees are now opened and framed suitable for the practise of the renewal system of pruning. A thorough spraying with D.N.O.C. (Dinitro-Ortho-Cresol) was carried out and further sprayings will be utilised as and when necessary. Four plum trees (Victoria) had to be destroyed to prevent the spread of Silver Leaf disease.

Fruit production from the Orchards in 1949 was as follows: -

Gooseberries		3½	cwts.
Plums	2 tons	3½	"
Apples	1 ton	14	"
Pears		16	"

making a creditable total of 4 tons 18 cwts.

Cemeteries. Work on the levelling of graves, etc. was commenced but here again labour problems seriously retarded progress. 13 interments were carried out, 6 females and 7 males. The Cemeteries were maintained in a neat, tidy and peaceful state throughout the year.

Nursery Gardens. In the nursery, lack of adequate water supplies was severely felt during the abnormally dry Summer of 1949. However, the following results were achieved, in spite of adverse circumstances.

1,250 bunches of mixed flowers for wards, Churches, etc.
 200 " " spray chrysanthemums " " "
 4,000 chrysanthemum blooms
 13 wreaths made and supplied for funerals.

By various means the nursery stock of plants was considerably augmented and we anticipate furnishing the gardens in the near future by propagating from these plants. An additional two acres was made available for extending the nursery garden activities by the incorporation of the copse site, which was cleared and made ready for the development of Spring planting and sowing.

Glasshouses. Production from the glasshouses was not all that might have been expected, largely owing to the dilapidated condition of the heating systems and of the houses generally. Lack of adequate cold frames was also a great detriment to full production. However, the following results can be recorded :-

8,000 bedding plants raised
 1,000 cut flower plants raised
 1,000 chrysanthemum plants in 40 varieties raised.
 500 lbs of tomatoes
 400 pot plants distributed to wards, etc.
 21 floral decorations supplied for functions in halls.
 4 exhibits staged at local shows.

Here also the stock of plants was augmented by every available means.

Horticultural training. A good standard of training was maintained for an average number of 80 trainees. Weekly classes in horticultural theory were given, and were enthusiastically received by the trainees. Three epidiascope lectures were given to the patients and this appears to be a feature of training which should be developed in the future; it was very popular with female patients who are horticulturally inclined.

From the average of 80 trainees it is gratifying to report that 18 graduated to full employment outside the hospital, and 2 have returned home on licence during the past year.

Lessons of 1949. From the past year emerge the following:- a great necessity for an increased water supply everywhere in the grounds, but especially in the nursery; for additional glasshouses, also dutchlights for propagation uses in the nursery, and for additional labour. With the removal of these hindrances to progress, one can feel confident that the gardens can then be made entirely self supporting within the next few years, and will become by their beauty and interest, a great asset towards the improvement and cure of patients."

HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

A very successful Show was held by the Darenth and Stone Hospitals Horticultural Society in the "Schools Hall" on 20.8.49.

Non-competitive exhibits were staged by the Kent Horticultural Institute, through the kindness of its Principal Mr. W. Corbett, by Mr. Walpole of Bow Arrow Hospital, by Messrs Challis & Prue of Darenth Park, and by the combined efforts of Stone House and Darenth Park gardeners. The produce from both Kent Horticultural Institute and Bow Arrow Hospital was presented to Darenth Park Hospital after the Show,

Despite the dry season there were a number of competitive exhibits by members of the staff and by patients of both hospitals. The needlework divisions were especially commendable.

The Show was well attended by members of the staffs and their families and friends, and by patients from both hospitals who appeared thoroughly to enjoy themselves.

Several members of the Hospital Management Committee encouraged by their presence and some brought members of their families who appeared to find the Show interesting.

Mr. Allison-Beer very kindly opened the Show, and his opening and closing speeches were gratifying to his audience, who were charmed by the delightful manner in which he presented the prizes to the winners.

LAUNDRY.

The laundry continues to function efficiently under Miss Jones, the Manageress, who has 4 laundry-men and 9 laundry-maids as assistants, and an average of 25 female patients. The foul laundry is working to capacity, as it was designed to cope with a much smaller number of incontinent patients than have had to be admitted since the war.

Total number of articles laundered	1,081,404
Number of articles for wards	857,676
" " " " Hospital Block	27,794
" " " " Foul Linen	84,364
" " " " Nursing Staff	56,581
" " " " Administrative staff	48,701
" " " " Domestic staff	6,388

ADDITIONS TO MEDICAL STAFF.

Dr. H.N. Heffernan (Registrar) joined 1.4.49

Dr. D.W.T.Harris (S.H.M.O.) joined 25.4.49.

TEACHING DEMONSTRATIONS.

Probation Officers, Students undergoing Home Office Courses, Students of the Royal Free Hospital, and Medical Students of Guy's Hospital (York Clinic), were given lectures and demonstrations on the Mental Deficiency Acts, the various types of patients, training, etc. These lecture-demonstrations were highly appreciated by the visitors, many of whom will certainly come into contact with feebleminded people in the course of their duties.

During the year two medical students from Westminster Hospital spent their vacation here as nursing assistants. They were keenly interested, proved very helpful, and benefited considerably in experience from the extra hours they spent in the laboratory and hospital block.

VISITS DURING 1949.

During the year, the Visiting Justices held Courts at this hospital four times when they considered the cases of all patients attaining the age of 21 years, as well as those whose orders were due for reconsideration.

On 9.9.49 the Chairman of the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board visited; and the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board on 2.12.49.

Members of the Joint Industrial Council visited on 22.6.49.

Two Commissioners of the Board of Control visited and inspected the Hospital on 29.5.49, and made a satisfactory report.

Officers of the Kent Fire Brigade made two inspections of the Hospital, its fire fighting apparatus and equipment. Their subsequent reports have been implemented as fully as possible.

STAFF SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB.

The Club continued to provide a wide variety of interests for the staff. Cricket, football, table tennis, badminton, indoor games, trips to Circus, Ice Hockey Shows and various theatres, forming the main activities. Two new sections were added, namely Dramatic & Pantomime, and Athletic. In addition highly successful dances and social evenings were held at intervals throughout the year.

The Annual Christmas Party for children of members of the staff was again held, and some 168 children enjoyed a very generous tea, and a conjuring show, and each child was presented with a gift, sweets and fruit.

Through the kindness of the Hospital Management Committee, the Club was fortunate in obtaining a much needed club-room, which should be ready for use early in 1950. The Hospital Management Committee has been very generous in its financial assistance towards the furnishing of the club-room and in making a grant towards the club funds.

PATIENTS RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT.

In addition to mixing freely at the highly successful Annual Fete held in July at which many members of the Hospital Management Committee were present, male and female patients together enjoy each others company at the dances which are held twice a week throughout the year with two special fancy dress balls at Christmas, and at the Good Intentions Club. Patients of both sexes also attend Concert Parties and stage shows.

MALE PATIENTS.

The following is a summary of the activities enjoyed particularly by male patients.

Weekly cinematograph shows in the main recreation hall are very popular with all those who can go, and the 16 mm projector is taken to wards in which the patients are for some reason or another, unable to attend the main shows.

<u>Football.</u>						<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Drawn</u>
Matches played at Darenth Park on Sats. - 18						12	3	3
"	"	away	"	"	- 3	2	1	-
"	"	mid-week - interhospital	-	12		12	-	-
"	"	away	"	-	12	11	1	-

Patients travelling to inter-hospital matches - 360

These inter-hospital matches were played at places such as Claybury, Friern, Leybourne Grange, Botleys Park, etc.

Cricket.

Matches played at Darenth Park on Sats.- 20						12	2	6
"	"	mid-week - interhospital	-	12		12	-	-
"	"	"	away	-	12	12	-	-
Junior side played						3	-	2

Patients travelling to above away matches - 360

The Junior side played against schools' teams and the games were very keenly contested and played in an excellent spirit.

Indoor Games.

This inter-ward tournament, which extends from October to April and consists of a series of 26 matches with ten games in each, is very keenly contested and enjoyed by the patients watching almost as much as those who play. The ward with the highest number of points at the end of the year was Ward 11, but it is by no means certain that they will bring off the victory.

As the majority of high grade male patients are out on daily licence, late dinners rather tend to exclude them from active participation in the tournament, so that lower grades have come into more prominence; and although the standard of play is not so high, excitement and keenness fully make up for this. Great interest is shown in the regular notices appertaining to this recreation, by the "fans" as well as the players.

Outings.

Visits to Seaside resorts were frequent during Summer months and Sunday trips were arranged for those patients on daily licence.

Twelve such trips were made to places such as Clacton, Southend, Ramsgate, Margate, Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings and Sheerness.

In some cases the parties were of 30 patients and in others 56, making a total of some 516 actually taking part.

Trips to Harringay and Earls Court to the Mammoth Circus shows were very popular and four double deck coaches took some 224 patients.

150 visited the Stoll Theatre, Victoria Palace and Chatham Theatre.

The total number of patients taking part in these outings was no fewer than 890. Of these 770 paid the whole cost themselves. It is a matter of great satisfaction that no patient absconded or misbehaved throughout the whole Season.

Miss Pattisson arranged a party and coach trip to the London Zoo on 16.5.49 for the "Old Witham Boys". She also provided them with lunch and tea.

FEMALE PATIENTS.

As with the male patients, weekly cinema shows are given in the Hall for the female patients and the 16 mm projector is taken to wards in which there are patients unable to go to the Hall.

Coach trips for female patients were organised to visit Harringay Circus, the Pantomime at Chatham Empire (2 parties), to the Princesses' Theatre, Crayford and Sheerness (17 trips). Occasional trips by parties of 20 were made to the cinema in Dartford. One visit was made to the London Zoo.

During December parties of patients were taken to Dartford in the Hospital coach and were enabled to do their shopping in comfort. Various patients who have children in Nurseries or schools were taken to visit their children periodically throughout the year. Many patients were taken out for day trips by members of the female staff.

Ranger and Girls' Club Activities.

Two companies of Rangers have a membership of 47 and 34 respectively and the Girls' Club has 40 members.

Rangers meetings were held on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and the Club meetings on Friday evenings. Activities include Ranger Test work, First Aid, Health, Team Games, Educational Games, Country Dancing and Embroidery.

A Keep Fit class was held one evening each week and included marching exercises, skipping and games.

On Wednesday afternoons an Educational Class was held for reading, writing and arithmetic. On another afternoon each week about 120 girls attended dancing in the school-room, and each week 20 girls were taken for walks and gathered bluebells, chestnuts, blackberries, etc., when in season. Female patients also played netball, badminton and table tennis.

"Dick Whittington" was the Pantomime acted by the female patients to a series of audiences (male and female patients and staff) and three Concerts were also given.

An Annual Party was held at Christmas, and another for the elderly patients who look forward each year with much anticipation to this "Old Ladies' Party".

SPIRITUAL MINISTRATION 1949.

Canon Elliott Mitchell, Rural Dean and Vicar of Dartford, who is Chaplain, continued to spend a great deal of his time on five days a week with the patients, by whom (as well as by staff) he is held in high affection. He also took Church of England Services on Sundays. He was assisted in his work by the Rev. Johnson, who also came frequently to Darenth Park.

Mr. Aug. B. Arnold, organist, conducted weekly choir practices at which Religious teaching was given to patients.

On 10.7.49 the hospital was honoured by a visit from the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Rochester who held a Service and gave an address.

Services for Nonconformist patients were held weekly by the Rev. Fairhurst, Free Church Minister, who also paid frequent visits during the week.

Weekly Services were held also for the R.C. patients mostly by Rev. Callanan, occasionally by Rev. McGovern, and by Fr. Evans, the R.C. Parish Priest of Dartford.

The Rev. Fletcher held monthly Services for the Jewish patients.

I am pleased to report that the above mentioned Clergy still continue their ministrations.

DEAF AND DUMB PATIENTS.

Mr. W.A. Amor and Miss Martin were regular visitors from the Royal Association in aid of the Deaf and Dumb, to the patients so afflicted here. Their visits were greatly appreciated by these patients, and especially the Annual Party organised for them.

In addition the Rev. Marlowe conducted six Services in the Chapel specially for them.

TRAINING OF NURSES.Preliminary Training School.

The Preliminary Training School has functioned very successfully throughout the year; 39 students passed through, 22 from Darenth Park and 17 from Stone House. Each student was given 8 weeks instruction. Visits were made to the Milk Parlour, Sewerage Works, Occupational Centres, Boiler House, Deep Well, Water filtration and Chlorination plant, Auto-clave, Out-patients' Department, Ear, Nose and Throat and Dental Clinics.

A total of 942 lectures were given in this Department by Miss E.M. Francis, acting Sister Tutor.

Student Nurses after passing through P.T.S.

Other students undertook theoretical and practical instruction according to their status, as follows :-

Passing through 1st year classes	39
" " 2nd " "	19
" " 3rd " "	12

Lectures by medical officers and acting Sister Tutor, given to these grades were :-

1st	<u>Medical Officer</u>	<u>A/Sister Tutor.</u>
1st year	44	67
2nd year	44	55
3rd year	35	68

All students (including P.T.S.) were given opportunities to witness operations.

Through the courtesy of Miss Collins, Headmistress of Bexley Technical School, a special teacher was obtained for the teaching of dietetics and practical cookery.

Examination Candidates (Darenth Park).

<u>Successful.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>November.</u>	
<u>Final R.M.F.A.</u>	1	3	
<u>Prelim. G.N.C.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>October.</u>
Part I and II	7	6	1
Part II			1
<u>Failed.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>		
<u>Prelim. R.M.F.A.</u>	1		
		<u>June</u>	<u>October.</u>
<u>Prelim. G.N.C.</u>			
Part I.		1	1

<u>Female Nursing Staff.</u>	<u>1. 1.49.</u>	<u>31.12.49.</u>
Full time	66 (Inc. 8 D.Ps.)	61 (Inc. 9 D.Ps.)
Part time	66	69
<u>Female Domestic Assts.</u>		
Full time	10	10
D.Ps.	11	9
<u>Female Rec. Supervisor.</u>		
Full time	1	1
<u>Seamstresses</u>		
Full time	4	4

On 30th June, 1949, weekly duties of the female staff were re-arranged so that the week started on a Sunday instead of on a Friday, thus enabling holidays to be booked more easily and allowing full-time staff one full week-end off in seven.

Some London Theatres granted complimentary tickets for nursing staff and parties enjoyed various shows.

New uniforms with appropriate colour schemes were designed in consultation with the staff concerned.

Student Nurse S. Rothman undertook voluntary duties at West Hill Hospital in order to obtain increased nursing experience, from March to July, 1949.

Nursing Assistant Mrs. Povey won second prize for her Lord Memorial Essay.

A Branch of the County Library was instituted during September, and staff were able to obtain fictional and non-fictional books.

PART III.GENERALTRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF PATIENTS

Socialisation of defectives to an extent that will enable them to lead normal lives in the outside world is the primary object of this hospital, which was in fact specially built, equipped and staffed for this training. In the world at large there are a great many maladjusted individuals who provide major headaches for Magistrates, Probation Officers, Guardians and Parents. No accommodation has yet been provided for these people under the Criminal Justices Act, 1948. Many of them require the protection of the Mental Deficiency Acts, and it is for these that so much is done at Darenth Park.

The training is, of necessity, a slow and long process and many patients have such severe mental or physical handicaps, or both, that for some this hospital remains a permanent home. Many higher grade patients exhibit such anti-social behaviour and are so devoid of sense of responsibility and common sense, that prolonged care is necessary for their own welfare and for the protection of others.

Training here is provided in wards, occupational centres, workshops, laundry, gardens, farm, kitchen, maintenance departments and social clubs, and is extended into the outside world by granting daily licence, parole and resident licence.

The methods of testing and allocating the patients have been described at length in previous reports, and it is not intended to repeat these rather intricate details here.

Fundamentally, it is essential that each individual patient be made to feel that he really matters and is really of some importance, and that the world at large has some use for him if he can order his conduct within accepted standards. He must be provided with feelings of security, of parental certainty and authority (or its equivalent), and of genuine affection given and received.

Training to male patients is given in carpentry, joinery, upholstery, mattress making, printing, book-binding, mat-making, brush-making, basket-making (when staff and materials are available), envelope making, paper bag making, boot and shoe making and repairing, tailoring, fire-wood cutting and bundling, painting, glazing, brick-laying, tinsmithing, briquette making, machine maintenance, furniture repairing, gardening and other activities. Small animal breeding was discontinued in April, 1949.

Training to female patients is given in the shops, where sewing by hand and machine is taught, as well as wool-rag making and soft toy making. The laundry provides training for a considerable number and the villa has its own workshops and laundry. Domestic work is taught in the wards and messrooms in the Nurses' Home.

Exquisite articles of embroidery and crochet-work are made by higher grade female patients as hobbies.

Rewards to patients are still utterly inadequate. Graded rewards to female patients of 6d, 1/- and 1/6d weekly have been made possible to the limit of £32 a week.

The male patients still only receive an allowance of cigarettes and tobacco (15 weekly and a few 25 weekly) and do not share in monetary rewards.

Instances of special efforts, additional to the training already mentioned, are given below :-

WARD 21 - OCCUPATIONAL CENTRE..

In Ward 21, there are 54 male patients who are unsuitable for the workshops because of low intelligence, severe paralysis, blindness, choreo-athetosis and other physical disabilities. Charge Nurses Thomson and Yakes, with the assistance of other officers, have developed a remarkable and expanding centre of happiness and usefulness in what may appear at times an untidy den, but a den of absorbing delight to all who work in it. And what boy is not at his happiest in a den, especially littered around with the things that interest him! Any house-wife (or Ward Sister) would be gratified at the swift model tidiness and orderliness this ward assumes when work ceases. Although the work appears to proceed casually because there is no atmosphere of industrialisation or drive, it is all the happier for this reason.

Variety of occupations is the keynote, and student nurses who do a turn of two months in this ward as part of their training are most loath to leave it. To carve a boat out of a block of wood is a satisfying achievement to most boys, but to equip it with mast and plastic sails, wire it to take an electric light bulb in the sail and turn it into an artistic table-lamp yields much more. Twelve of these were made by the boys during the year. Other articles included woollen rugs (50), cushions (20), baskets (32), knitted floor scrubbers (290), loom-woven scarves (6), stools (117), fire screens (30), lamp shades (25), and a number of bedroom mats and slippers. These had a sale totalling £370.

In addition some hundreds of mechanical toys and Christmas crackers were made for the Staff Childrens' Christmas Party in December, and each patient was assisted to make a mechanised toy for a younger relative. - sometimes to make it appropriate an exchange was effected with the female workshops and a doll or soft toy obtained for a small sister. Each boy did his piece towards making the present, and how proudly were the finished articles handed to relatives!

The materials used throughout were largely scrap and useless elsewhere. A special mention of thanks is due to Mr. Bairstow of Kolster-Brandes, Ltd., for his generous gifts of plywood off-cuts.

Ward 21 has its counterpart in Wards 25 and 26 where, on a smaller scale, low grade female patients unsuitable for the shops are happily engaged in simple knitting and needlework.

WARD 24.

In January 1949, Ward 24 was opened and Charge Nurses French and West were given the task of stabilising 44 youthful physically healthy male patients whose conduct and behaviour were undisciplined and irresponsible. Within three months breakages had dropped by about 40% and in six months by 75%. The nurses were considerably helped by Mr. J. Palmer, who was appointed P.T. Instructor in February 1949, and by his methods of making physical training and games interesting. In addition, Mr. Tizard and Mr. O'Connor, psychologists from the Maudsley Hospital kept up the interest of a large number of these patients by conducting group-tests over a considerable period.

Mr. John Donovan, K.E.C. schoolmaster, assisted by Staff Nurse H.F. Hicks commenced evening classes in the 3 R's and general knowledge for these boys in July, 1949.

The number of patients in this ward rose to 55 and by the end of the year nine of them had been placed on daily licence, seven with the building and farming operations at Joyce Green, twelve in the special M.R.C. shop (finishing electrical equipment for Kolster-Brandes) and one assisting in a private garden. Regular town parole was introduced and was granted to 26 of them by December. The total number of absconders amounted to four which is surprisingly low as no less than 23 of the 55 were persistent absconders from E.S.N. schools, etc.

Thus, within twelve months, over 50% of these youths were employed in wage earning employment, working under minimal supervision, and it is felt that this is a matter for considerable satisfaction.

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOPS.

The two members of the Occupational Psychiatric Research Unit of the Maudsley Research Centre mentioned above tested 104 high grade male defectives. Dr. Crawford collaborated with the investigators by selecting the cases to be tested and giving a psychiatric assessment of each boy against which the results of the test battery were validated.

The assistance of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and of the Ministry of Health was sought and a number of factories were approached and visited with a view to setting up an experimental workshop in the Hospital for boys not considered sufficiently mature or stable to proceed on daily licence. As a beginning twelve boys were selected from among those tested to take part in this experiment.

It was not an easy matter to find factory work within the capacity of the patients but after several visits were exchanged between officers of Kolster-Brandes factory at Sidcup and this Hospital, it was possible to prepare for the opening of the shop in the early part of 1950.

It should be placed on record that the firm mentioned has been most co-operative and generous and has given every assistance and encouragement.

ST. PAUL'S CRAY.

In October 1949 contact was made with a large firm of Builders who had contracts to build a big estate of houses for the London County Council at St. Paul's Cray near Sidcup, and it was agreed that a trial should be made of some of the male patients from Darenth Park as labourers on daily licence.

A start was made with 6 patients who proved so satisfactory that the number was rapidly increased to 50 and then 60, reaching a peak of 78. Not all of them were satisfactory and considerable re-arrangements had to be made. Neither were all the foremen at the site capable of handling mental defectives. It became necessary for an officer - Staff Nurse Poultney - to attend frequently to deal with the mass of minor difficulties which kept cropping up. His biggest task was to fit the right patient to the right job. This entailed changing types of work, changing sites of work, showing patients how to use tools, how to dig and to stack bricks; giving "pep talks" as required and so on. In a matter of weeks one patient was running a cement mixing machine (petrol driven) and before the end of the year, two patients had become charge hands instructing and directing ordinary labourers supplied by the Ministry of Labour and National Service. It was necessary for Mr. Poultney also to ensure that proper precautions were taken when the patients were asked to do dangerous work.

It soon became apparent that a Staff Nurse should be on the site daily to supervise patients, their work and their tendency to minor injuries through awkwardness with tools, and Staff Nurse Tyas was selected for this work. Close liaison was kept by Mr. Poultney, by Mr. Lane, Chief Male Nurse and myself.

One of the difficulties which was anticipated was that Trade Union stewards might raise objections to non-unionist labourers working with those who were union members. This difficulty was promptly met by obtaining T.U. membership for the patients. As they were all earning full T.U. rates, plus bonuses they had no difficulty in finding the subscription.

Another was caused by the employers requiring indemnifying insurance (following an accident to a patient) against possible damage done by patients. This was subsequently settled by the patients agreeing to pay the small premium themselves.

Travelling to St. Paul's Cray by public conveyance was expensive and very roundabout and therefore time-consuming. It was found that hiring coaches was cheaper, quicker and much more comfortable and the patients were quite happy to pay for this mode of conveyance. The use of coaches also allowed patients who were unfit to travel by public vehicles to be tried at this work.

Sandwiches were provided and arrangements were also made for the patients to be able to obtain a mid-day meal for 1/4d at the canteen at the site. A hot meal was provided for them on their return to the hospital.

After weeding out the unsatisfactory patients the number employed on the site is maintained at a constant figure of between 50 and 55. Most of the patients engaged have C.R.O. numbers. Many were unco-operative in the Hospital shops and a number were persistent absconders from the Hospital.

It is noteworthy that only one patient in this experiment absconded from his work. In fact two of this type, about whom considerable hesitancy in trying them had been felt, on one occasion missed the coach return trip as they were on an isolated site drawing their wages. They walked the whole 11 miles back with their pay packets intact, each of which contained £5.6.11d. (P.A.Y.E., Insurance &c. had already been deducted).

Saturday afternoon parole has been granted to the patients engaged at St. Paul's Cray, with remarkably small abuse of it.

Patients who were not physically fit for labouring work have been found jobs there as office boys and canteen assistants, and one as a butcher's assistant.

It has been most gratifying to hear from the foremen on the sites and the employers themselves the glowing words of praise which have been volunteered concerning the assiduity and thoroughness shown towards their work by these patients. It is also most gratifying to see them smartly turned out in their own private clothing bought by themselves, when on parole or other special occasions. The self respect which they have gained has to be seen to be believed.

As a direct result of this experiment several patients have shown themselves fit to proceed on full resident licence elsewhere.

It should be pointed out of course that although St. Paul's Cray caters for the largest number of patients on building work, there are others engaged with smaller firms in Dartford, Crayford and Gravesend, and that what has been said above applies similarly in their cases.

GOOD INTENTIONS CLUB.

In order to provide extra incentive and certain special privileges an evening social club was started early in 1949 for patients who were working steadily and making progress towards social fitness. Numbers were limited to 70-80 to form a compact group. The patients themselves suggested the name of the club and formed a Committee of six to meet the doctor in charge (Dr. Crawford) and the Matron to discuss what activities should be pursued. As most of the patients are wage-earners, they themselves suggested that the boys should contribute weekly sixpence and the girls threepence to provide refreshments and small prizes for games. etc.

Social evenings usually take place on Saturdays from 5.45 to 7.30 p.m. There is keen competition to join. In accordance with the "rules", those whose good intentions lapse either temporarily or permanently are excluded (on the same basis) and others are chosen to fill the gaps.

Some evenings are devoted almost entirely to dancing, conversation and table games such as table tennis, dominoes, draughts, cards, snakes and ladders and shove ha'penny. At others organised competitions are run with prizes for winners of both sexes. At Christmas an extra effort was made and a most enjoyable party was held with an extra special tea and with competitions for better prizes.

That the experiment can be regarded as a success is largely due to the efforts of Dr. Crawford and Matron. It allows the two sexes to mix under the mildest supervision, and gives an opportunity for each to make adjustment inside a mixed group where a certain standard of social behaviour is expected - and exacted.

PAROLE.

With expansion of daily licence there was naturally an expansion of parole. Although some patients had parole before the war and during the war, it was only within the last three years that it has reached such a level that it deserves special mention. By October 1949, no fewer than 360 male patients were granted town parole and also a small number of female patients, usually in pairs, with one of the stronger-minded as one of the pair. Great care has still to be exercised with parole for female patients.

I regard this parole as being a major experiment and one well worth while in spite of a few taking advantage of it by absconding or emulating old George, (a grand old pillar of Darenth) a keen Charlton football fan. Granted, with misgiving, parole to Dartford, he managed to find his way to Charlton football ground, saw the match and returned to Darenth on foot. He was rather reticent about his adventures, but must have sampled the contents of many barrels on the way home. He slept some of it off in Dartford Central Park but got here in the early hours of the next day. After a few weeks he was again allowed parole; but never again did he fall from grace.

Everyone knows the sense of satisfaction of being well dressed and of feeling that he is an accepted member of the society he is in: it does not need a vivid imagination to picture the feeling of our patients (in their own bespoke suits) when they can mix freely with the general population, doing, within the limit of decent conduct, just exactly what everyone else is doing.

Up to the time of writing this report, I am glad to be able to say that no complaints of any kind have reached me from the people of Dartford or neighbourhood, the shop-keepers or the police.

Somebody invented the word "Institutionalised". It may be a good epithet in some cases. It may well be that some patients can become admirable members in a sheltered and orderly existence in an institution (custodial cases) and be useless outside a hospital such as this which is essentially for trainable defectives. Parole is in my opinion, one way of trying to keep trainable and stabilised patients in touch with the world at large. So is holiday leave, which is granted whenever possible.

CONCLUSION.

I would like to stress my opinion that the best results in training defectives are obtained through clinical and individual study of each patient by sympathetic medical nursing and teaching staffs, whose mental health is shown by their own stable and balanced personality; and that I have yet to be convinced of the success of mass production methods, or the application of mathematical formulae. The defective needs personal help, assurance, guidance, encouragement, and repeated trial.

Some knowledge and experience of psychoses is of great advantage. Many defectives are psychotic or psycho-neurotic, and a full assessment of abnormal behaviour cannot be made without wide psychiatric experience of all types of mental disorder. The wider this is, the less is the tendency to fit diagnoses into water-tight compartments, and the more becomes the realisation that convenience rather than clinical accuracy labels many patients who suffer these various troubles which all have at least one common denominator, namely, the brain.

I have been greatly helped throughout the year by my staff and would like to place on record my appreciation of their efforts, particularly those of Dr. J.M. Crawford, Deputy Medical Superintendent and Assistant Physician, Mrs. C.G. Barnes, Matron and Mr. W.A. Lane, Chief Male Nurse.

I also gladly take the opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Hospital Management Committee for their invaluable consideration, co-operation and assistance.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.K. COLLIER LAING.

Physician Superintendent.

